Healthy Land, Healthy People, Healthy Communities

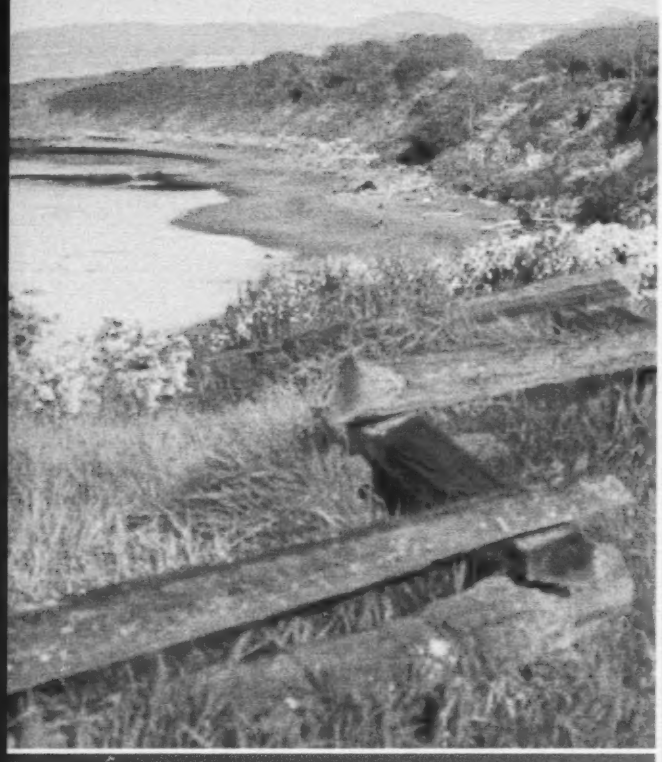
2015 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROVINCIAL MOTTO: SPLENDOR SINE OCCASU
(Splendour Without Diminishment)

The crest of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia features the shield of arms of B.C. in its centre, surrounded by a circlet of 10 gold stylized maple leaves representing the 10 provinces of Canada. Above the shield is a St. Edward's Crown, signifying the Sovereign's representative in the Province. *(Top Left Graphic)*

The shield of British Columbia's coat of arms was granted by King Edward VII in 1906. The complete coat of arms was granted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1987. The Royal Union Flag, with an antique golden crown in the centre, occupies the upper third of the shield, symbolizing the province's origin as a British colony. The lower portion of the shield features a golden half-sun, superimposed upon three wavy blue bars cast horizontally on white. The blue bars represent the Pacific Ocean and the sun signifies B.C.'s location as the most westerly province in Canada. The shield is supported by a wapiti stag and a bighorn sheep, representing the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. The crest above the shield features a lion standing on a crown. The lion wears a garland of Pacific dogwoods and the provincial flower around its neck. Between the crest and shield is the golden helmet of sovereignty, a mark of B.C.'s co-sovereign status in Confederation. Above the helmet are the traditional heraldic elements of a wreath and mantling in red and white, the colours of Canada. The provincial flower is featured a second time by entwining dogwoods around the motto scroll at the base of the arms. *(Middle Left Graphic)*

The Honourable Judith Guichon's longstanding connection to the land is reflected in her coat of arms. The arched line evokes the landscape near Nicola Lake, where the Guichon family has ranched for generations. The bluebunch wheatgrass is an important plant for foraging by the livestock bred on the ranch. The four roots represent Her Honour's four children and the healthy roots that support the continuity of life. The branded horse and steer represent the livestock and the reaping of the benefits of sunshine. Below, the burrowing owl lives in harmony with the cattle and represents Her Honour's ongoing efforts to learn about and respect biodiversity. The endangered dancing grouse on top symbolizes the joy found in biodiversity. The motto "Relationships, Respect, Responsibility" represents Her Honour's underlying belief that healthy relationships between people and the land that supports and nurtures must underpin our actions in respectful and responsible ways. *(Bottom Left Graphic)*



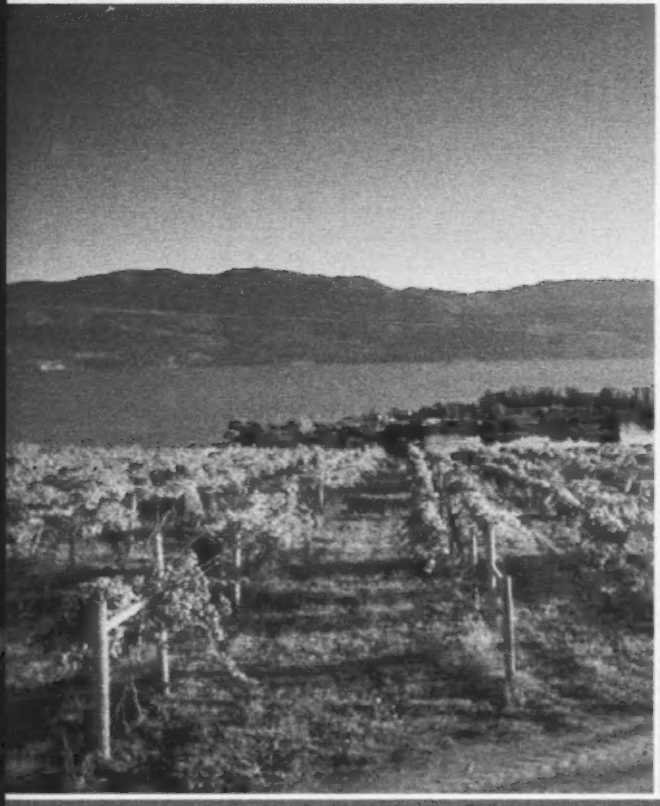


Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ... 2

2015 HIGHLIGHTS ... 3

THE ROLE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ... 4

- *Vice-Regal Role* ... 5
- *Constitutional Role* ... 6
- *Celebratory Role* ... 7
- *Promotional Role* ... 8

PRIORITY PROGRAMS ... 9

- *Stewards of the Future* ... 9
- *Sing Me a Song* ... 11
- *The Write to Read Project* ... 12

GOVERNMENT HOUSE: THE CEREMONIAL HOME OF ALL BRITISH COLUMBIANS ... 13

- *The Cary Castle Mews* ... 15
- *The Friends of Government House Gardens Society* ... 16
- *The Government House Foundation* ... 17

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ... 18

- *Mission* ... 18
- *Role* ... 18
- *Resources* ... 19

FOR MORE INFORMATION ... 21

Message from the Lieutenant Governor

Canadians had so much to celebrate in 2015. In February we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our Canadian Flag, a step forward in our nation's history. In May we remembered the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands. In July we recognized the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta — the historic document that assured equality for all before the law. In September, along with our fellow members of the Commonwealth of Nations, we celebrated the historic reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada; what an incredible record of service and constancy. All of these occasions brought our citizens together as we reflected on the leadership, diplomacy, and collaboration that have guided the continued development and progress of our nation.

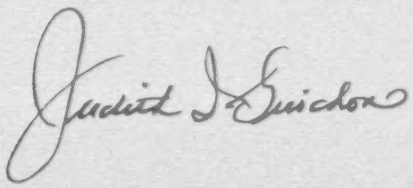
Perhaps lesser known was that 2015 was also the United Nations International Year of Soils. I saw it as an opportunity to focus discussion on the ground beneath our feet and its essential role in the health of our communities. As generations become further removed from an agrarian lifestyle, and as we lose community, I fear that civil society becomes less civil. It is at our peril that the great cities of the world forget that civilization relies on the health of the soils upon which it rests.

Above: The Honourable Judith I. Guichon, 29th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

I believe the best protector of our land is peace and stability, for nothing devastates like war, civil unrest and uncertainty. The Crown in Canada is the foundation that helps to maintain the level of civility that we enjoy. It is this constancy that allows us to develop our society in an orderly, civil manner, to become more inclusive and to move ever forward towards our destiny. We must acknowledge the mistakes of the past, and accept that there will be hurdles in the future, but I believe that with our shared past and with the stability provided by the Crown, our constitution will be well protected and this peace will provide the environment in which our sacred land may continue to flourish.

It is my responsibility to uphold our constitutional framework, but also to celebrate the accomplishments of our people. Through the presentation of Canadian Orders and Decorations and by attending hundreds of events each year that celebrate and honour the outstanding work of British Columbians, I am made aware of the incredible resilience, fortitude and ingenuity that arise during challenging times. From award recipients to unsung heroes, our citizens have identified problems and devoted themselves to creating solutions. Where ties are broken, creative thinkers find ways to mend them — stronger and more resilient than before.

As we celebrated the International Year of Soils, my thoughts were with the land across the globe united within the Commonwealth and the Crown. On Flag Day, we raised our standard on high, the iconic red and white maple leaf a testament to the bond we share with the land and the bounty it provides. Through the continued mandate of progress and excellence, we generate healthy people, in healthy communities, on healthy land.



THE HONOURABLE JUDITH I. GUICHON, OBC
29TH LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

2015 Highlights

"Lamby"

In June, Her Honour brought an orphaned lamb, "Lamby", from the ranch to Government House for the summer. His presence was an opportunity for folks young and old to bridge the gap between urban and rural environments. A dedicated and caring group of volunteers tended to his needs, accompanying him as he grazed the grounds, ensuring he was clean and watered and never wanted for company. As the days shortened and summer turned to fall, he found a new home at a small farm in Saanich where he has settled in and made many new friends.

Stewards of the Future Conference

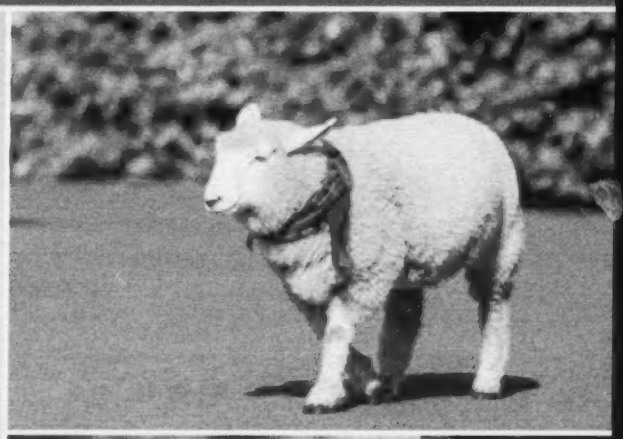
Held at Pearson World College in early June, the inaugural Stewards of the Future Conference was a tremendous success. The three-day conference brought students, mentors and speakers from across the province together to discuss environmental initiatives. Learn more about Stewards of the Future and the conference under Priority Programs.

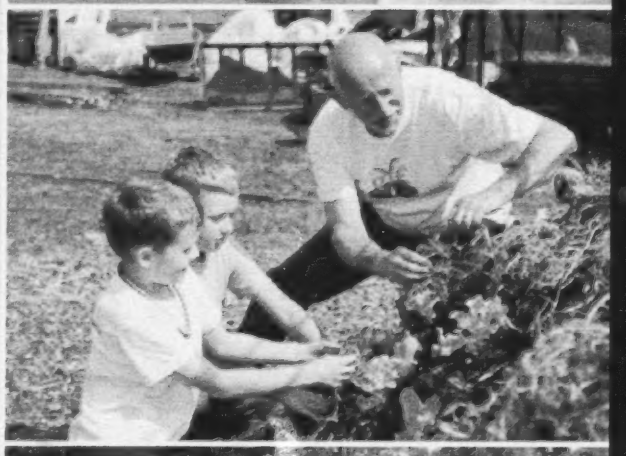
Earth Day

To celebrate Earth Day Her Honour, in partnership with Growing Young Farmers and the Friends of Government House Gardens Society, hosted an event for 300 elementary school students on the Government House grounds. The students learned about organic farming, growing their own garden and the importance of different species to the ecosystem, including bees and ducks, all in a fun and hands-on environment.

Aborginal Back to School Picnic

In August, the Aboriginal Back to School Picnic was held on the Government House grounds. Hosted by Surrounded By Cedar Child and Family Services, along with financial and volunteer support from the Victoria Native Friendship Centre; the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres; Hulitan Social Services and M'akola Housing Society; and First Nations Education at School District 61 (Victoria), the event hosted nearly 2,000 people for a nutritious lunch, games and activities for all ages and provided support to over 1,200 students with school supplies ranging from preschool to post-secondary, throughout Greater Victoria. Her Honour is looking forward to having the picnic at Government House again in 2016.





The Role of the Lieutenant Governor

The post of Lieutenant Governor was established by the *British North America Act* in March 1867. This Act united the provinces under a central government, with each province retaining its own legislature to preside over matters not under federal jurisdiction. In British Columbia, the Office of Lieutenant Governor came into existence when the Crown Colony joined the Dominion of Canada in 1871. Under Section 9 of the *Constitution Act 1867*, Her Majesty is the Canadian Head of State and thus, The Queen of Canada and part of the foundation of our Canadian identity. There are four main facets to the Lieutenant Governor's role: Vice-Regal, Constitutional, Celebratory and Promotional.

The Honourable Judith Guichon was sworn-in as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia on November 2, 2012. Prior to this appointment she owned and operated Gerard Guichon Ranch Limited in the Nicola Valley in the British Columbia Interior. The Guichon family has ranched in the area since 1878 and Her Honour's father-in-law was awarded the Order of Canada in 1974 for his leadership in Cattlemen's Associations and his contribution to agriculture in Canada. Two of her four children now manage the ranch with a 700 head cow calf and 700 yearling operation.

Her Honour studied Holistic Management — a farming method which promotes sustainable management of livestock by emphasizing their natural habitat. Along with her late husband, commercial pilot Lawrence Guichon, she introduced Holistic Management to the ranchers of British Columbia.

Her Honour was also involved in several organizations. She served on the local hospital board and Community Health Council and was on the Community Health Foundation board. She served as a 4-H leader and started a recycling society in Merritt, B.C. with neighbours.

She also served as a director for the Fraser Basin Council of B.C., director of the Grasslands Conservation Council of B.C., member of the Nicola Water Use Management planning committee and played the flute in the Nicola Valley Community Band.

Prior to her term as Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour served on the Provincial Task Force on Species at Risk and completed a two-year term as the president of the British Columbia Cattlemen's Association. She has also been a part of the Ranching Task Force for B.C. and the British Columbia Agri-Food Trade Advisory Council.

Born in Montreal, Quebec, and raised on a farm near Hawkesbury, Ontario, Her Honour moved to British Columbia in 1972. She and her husband, Bruno Mailloux, maintain a residence in the Nicola Valley.

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND GOVERNMENT HOUSE
www.ltgov.bc.ca

Above: The Honourable Judith L Guichon, 29th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

VICE-REGAL ROLE

The Lieutenant Governor **represents the Crown in British Columbia**. As Her Majesty's direct representative in the Province, the Lieutenant Governor is first in the provincial order of precedence and as such: represents the Crown as Chief Executive Officer during state and ceremonial events; acts as the vice-regal host for distinguished visitors to British Columbia; perpetuates the traditional bond between the Crown, the Canadian Forces and uniformed services across British Columbia; perpetuates the traditional bond between the Crown and First Nations; and represents Her Majesty at appropriate events and ceremonies.

Above: In October 2015 Her Honour welcomed Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium to British Columbia. Her Royal Highness was in the province, along with a delegation of more than 200 representatives of business and state, for a Western Canada Belgian Economic Mission.

Above and Right: Her Honour was appointed as the Honorary Colonel of the Rocky Mountain Rangers. The practice of honorary regimental appointments in Canada dates back more than a century. Although the tasks and roles of units have changed over the years, it remains the role of the Honorary to serve as a link between the community and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Above: Her Honour, along with local mayors, spent National Aboriginal Day visiting the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations on whose traditional territory the City of Victoria sits.

About the Rocky Mountain Rangers: The Rocky Mountain Rangers is an Army Reserve infantry regiment of 39 Canadian Brigade Group garrisoned in Kamloops at the J.R. Vicars Armoury, with a Company in Prince George. This Reserve Force regiment originated in Nelson, British Columbia on April 1, 1908, when the '102nd Regiment' was authorized to be formed. It was redesignated: '102nd Regiment, Rocky Mountain Rangers' on June 1, 1909; 'The Rocky Mountain Rangers' on March 12, 1920; '2nd (Reserve) Battalion, The Rocky Mountain Rangers' on January 1, 1941; and 'The Rocky Mountain Rangers' on January 28, 1946.

CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE

The Lieutenant Governor **upholds the constitutional framework in British Columbia**. In this role the Lieutenant Governor personifies the Crown, which is both the apex and the unifying link in the constitutional and political structure of the Province — executive, legislative, and judicial. The Canadian Crown plays a key function in underwriting our constitutional stability while enabling officials, democratically elected by the citizens, to govern. To uphold the constitutional framework the Lieutenant Governor ensures the continued existence of government in the Province of British Columbia; selects a First Minister as Premier of the Province; and summons, prorogues and dissolves the Legislature.

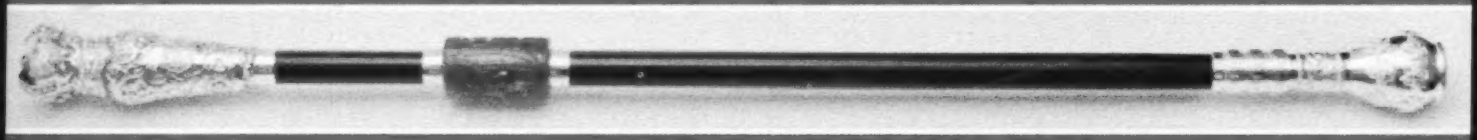
The Lieutenant Governor signs orders-in-council, proclamations and other official documents before they have the force of law. In 2015, the Lieutenant Governor signed 843 orders-in-council, 168 proclamations and gave Royal Assent to 42 Bills.

Above: The rituals associated with the opening of the legislature demonstrate the distinction between the Crown and those elected to form government. On the day of the opening of a new legislative session the Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by her Private Secretary and four honorary aides-de-camp, arrives at the Parliament Buildings in Victoria. The Lieutenant Governor receives a 15-gun salute and then inspects a Guard of Honour provided by the Canadian Armed Forces. The presence of the Guard, Band and guns are a symbolic manifestation of the nation's will to protect its values and democratic institutions.

Below: At the start of each session of Parliament, the Lieutenant Governor delivers the Speech from the Throne. To help students better understand the importance of this occasion, Her Honour had a short informational video created about the history and traditions surrounding the Speech from the Throne and the opening of a new legislative session.

Above: Her Honour appointed MLA Mike Bernier as Minister of Education and MLA Mike Morris as the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Appointments to the Executive Council are made by Her Honour upon the advice of the Premier.

Did you know? The Lieutenant Governor is led into the Chamber by the Usher of the Black Rod. Though steeped in traditions that go back to the 14th century, the British Columbia Black Rod was created to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2012. It is carried and used on the occasions when Her Majesty, her successors or their vice-regal representatives are present in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.



CELEBRATORY ROLE

The Lieutenant Governor **celebrates, inspires and connects British Columbians**. Every day, people from across B.C. spend their time and energy to make a positive impact on the lives of their fellow citizens. The Lieutenant Governor has an important role in honouring these great British Columbians, celebrating their service and bringing like-minded citizens together to inspire and help others. In this role, the Lieutenant Governor: recognizes distinguished British Columbians by presenting Orders, Decorations and Medals; hosts and attends celebrations and social events to connect British Columbians; inspires and sets an example by focusing attention on worthy causes and by lending support to these endeavours.

Connecting British Columbians

The Lieutenant Governor attended over 500 events throughout the province and hosted more than 24,000 people at Government House. Each event allows British Columbians to connect with others working on supporting causes. As they meet and talk, plans are built for a better future for all.

Above: As Chancellor of the Order of British Columbia, the Lieutenant Governor bestows the honour on exceptional British Columbians for their service and inspiration to others. Since the establishment of the Order in 1989, 385 British Columbians have been recognized.

Above: In February 2015, Her Honour attended the Canada Winter Games in Prince George. Her Honour had the opportunity to meet and congratulate athletes from across the province and the country.

Above Left: In a small ceremony at Government House, Her Honour presented Neil Stewart with the French Legion d'Honneur. Mr. Stewart was one of a very small handful of men who landed in France with a combat regiment, fought throughout the North West Europe campaign in virtually every battle of any size, and was never seriously wounded.

Above Right: Did you know? At the commencement of Her Honour's term, it became part of her mandate to visit all corners of the province during her tenure in order to learn about each region, its people, understand their needs and share that knowledge with others. Her Honour visited 80 communities in 2015, including community tours to the regions of central B.C., the Sunshine Coast, the West Kootenays, West Vancouver Island and Northwest British Columbia.

Inspiring British Columbians

The Lieutenant Governor provides patronage to support and encourage worthy endeavours focused on public service, philanthropy, the arts and community volunteerism. Her Honour is currently patron of 96 organizations.

PROMOTIONAL ROLE

The Lieutenant Governor **profiles excellence and promotes the history, culture and achievements of British Columbians**. The Lieutenant Governor instills pride in the people, geography and natural resources of British Columbia by profiling their accomplishments and the rich beauty of the land.

The Lieutenant Governor showcases the heritage, art and culture of the province while hosting members of the Royal Family, heads of state, ambassadors, consuls general and other distinguished visitors.

Above: The Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Excellence in British Columbia Wines were established in 2003 to promote the province's growing wine industry. Fourteen wines won the Award of Excellence in 2015, the largest number of winners in the competition's history.

Far Left: Ice Forming, Revelstoke National Park, 1965, Pastel on paper, Collection of the City of Penticton Museum and Archives gift of Earl and Suzy Hamilton.

Left Middle: Okanagan Squall, 1962, Pastel on paper, Collection of the Penticton Art Gallery gift from Bob and Naomi Birtch, 2006.04.02.

Did you know? As the ceremonial home of British Columbians, Government House is home to art and antiquities that represent every region of the province. In 2015, the House hosted its first temporary exhibit, featuring the works of Irvine Clinton Adams (1902–1992), titled "Landscapes of the Okanagan". Pieces were on loan from the Penticton Art Gallery, Brian Adams and the City of Penticton Museum and Archives. Temporary exhibits will represent different regions of the province and focus on art representing B.C.'s diverse landscapes.

Right: Her Honour welcomed His Excellency Kenjiro Monji, Ambassador of Japan, to Government House. In 2015, 23 ambassadors and consuls general were received by the Lieutenant Governor.

Above: Her Honour with recipients at the BC Book Prizes Gala in Vancouver. The Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence is presented annually at the Gala to a writer who has contributed to the development of literary excellence in British Columbia. Betty Keller won the 2015 Award.

Priority Programs

Each Lieutenant Governor's priority programs are set out at the commencement of their term and are funded by the Government House Foundation. The Honourable Judith Guichon comes from a background of land stewardship, music and community activism. Her Honour's priority programs focus on stewards of the future, music and the arts, and literacy. Each program is based on respect, positive relationships and the responsibility every person has for the future.

STEWARDS OF THE FUTURE

STEWARDS OF THE FUTURE

Stewards of the Future is a youth action and education initiative designed to engage secondary school students in hands-on activities and real-world learning experiences in their communities. Its overall goal is to help students understand the complexity of our relationship with the environment and their responsibility to be leaders and stewards of the future. Funding for the program is provided through donations and sponsorships to the Government House Foundation.

A primary component of the program is experiential, outdoor learning through four main activity types:

- Guest Speakers: local experts visit the class and present some history, content and perspectives on an issue of interest.
- Interviews: students directly interact with a stakeholder involved with the issues of study (e.g., an employee, rancher, First Nations elder, scientist, volunteer).
- Field Trips: direct experiences with: community gardens, fish hatcheries, cattle ranches, homeless shelters, university labs, mayors' offices, sewage treatment facilities, etc.
- Inquiry and Discussion: students research, discuss and debate the issues that lie before them as Stewards of the Future.

Right: The 2015 projects ranged from restoration of riparian areas, invasive species management, research on salmon life cycles, and food-to-table studies including the implementation of school gardens. Stewards of the Future partnered with over 50 organizations and received 60 applications in its inaugural year, 26 of which it was able to fund.

The inaugural Stewards of the Future Conference was held the first weekend in June at Pearson College UWC outside of Victoria. With over 150 total participants and 25 speakers and mentors, the conference was a great success. The weekend started with student project reports, including maps of invasive species, videos on salmon habitats and life cycles, and Prezi slideshows on local, sustainable agriculture. Her Honour was pleased to see the level of inquiry, analysis, and hands-on engagement displayed across so many subjects and regions.

The youth made pledges affirming their responsibility to the future, and shared insight into the relationships between ecosystems and the lands and waters that sustain us. The closing panel provided feedback and wisdom to continue the investigations and explorations launched during the weekend's activities. Astronaut Robert Thirsk, forester James Gorman, Canfor Chairman Emeritus Peter Bentley, and author JB MacKinnon were among the many talented speakers at the event.

WEBSITE:
www.ltgov.bc.ca/lg/priority-programs/stewards/default.html

SING ME A SONG

SING ME A SONG

Sing Me a Song promotes music and community spirit across the province. It is an opportunity for musical groups of all ages and genres to write and sing an original song in the lead up to Canada's 150th birthday celebrations in 2017. Groups are encouraged to write a song about what Canada's sesquicentennial means to them or their community. All submissions must be original content and inspired by the Canada 150 theme. This program is intended to inspire British Columbians to reflect on their history and communities and to celebrate their pride in our province and country.

Sing Me a Song will run each year through to Canada's sesquicentennial in 2017, with prizes being awarded annually. In 2017, all entries will be compiled as a gift to Canada to celebrate its 150th birthday.

WEBSITE:
www.ltgov.bc.ca/lg/priority-programs/song/default.html

"We have outstanding amateur musicians in B.C. and these entries reflect that community spirit and celebration is alive and well for Canada's upcoming sesquicentennial."

THE HONOURABLE JUDITH GUICHON

Above: For the second year in a row, an elementary school from Chilliwack was a winner. The Robertson Rockers from Robertson Elementary won in the under-18 category for their song "We Belong".

Below: The Gabriola Island Singers were one of two groups to win in the open category. Their song, "Happy Birthday, Canada", was a true community collaboration. Her Honour said of the group during the award presentation, "The Gabriola Island Singers are evidence of the vibrancy and health of this community."

Above: The Stone Soup Singers from Salt Spring Island also won in the open category for their song, "This is Canada".

The 2015 Sing Me A Song awards were generously sponsored by Wayne Strandlund and Elena Markos of Victoria. Entries were scored on musicality, spirit and originality by a panel of musicians which included Lieutenant (N) Matthew Clark, Director of the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy; Maureen Archambault, musical director of Youth Choir 61, the Honour Choir of the Greater Victoria School District; and Heather Pawsey, opera singer and artistic director of Astrolabe Musik Theatre.

THE WRITE TO READ PROJECT

Her Honour continues to build on the literacy program established by former Lieutenant Governor Steven Point, the Write to Read Project.

The project partners remote First Nations communities with Rotary clubs to help build community libraries and assist with access to reading materials. It is a partnership between the Government House Foundation, Rotary International and several corporate sponsors. All participating parties have a shared interest in increasing access to literacy materials for remote areas and in building cooperative relationships between urban groups and rural First Nations communities.

WEBSITE:
www.writetoreadproject.org

"It has become a wonderful program, for many communities, not just because it brings the joy of being surrounded by good books and access to the world via the web, but because new partnerships and lasting friendships are developed and communities are enriched."

THE HONOURABLE JUDITH GUICHON

Above: Andrew Wooldridge, Publisher at Orca Books, and Ruth Linka, President of the Association of BC Book Publishers, donated 500 new books to the program. Orca Books was one of the very first partners of the Write to Read Project.

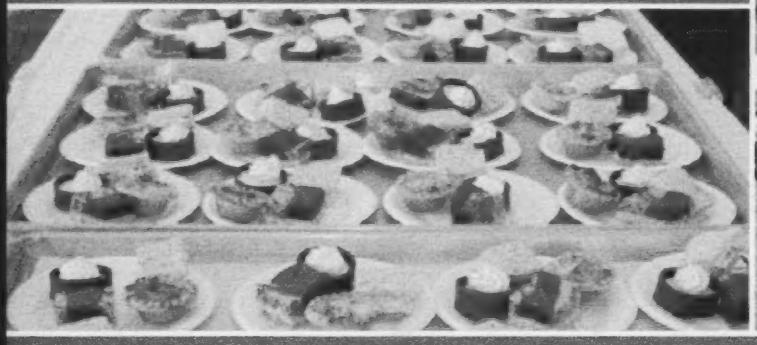
Right: In October 2015, Her Honour officially opened the library in Nooaitch, just outside of Merritt. It is the 10th library opened under the Write to Read Project. Sponsors of the Nooaitch library included the Government House Foundation, Britco, TELUS, London Drugs, Merritt-Daybreak Rotary Club, Merritt Rotary Club and the Merritt Interact Club.

Government House: The Ceremonial Home of all British Columbians

Government House is the office and official residence of the Lieutenant Governor and the ceremonial home of all British Columbians. As the Province's centre of hospitality, the House and grounds welcome visitors to large public events, as well as ceremonies, receptions and dinners by invitation that honour and celebrate organizations and individuals. The Lieutenant Governor also offers accommodation to distinguished visitors including members of the Royal Family, international royalty, heads of state and other honoured guests of British Columbia.

The Government House grounds are a National Historic Site embracing 14.6 hectares (36 acres), including 8.9 hectares of rare Garry Oak ecosystem and 5.7 hectares of formal gardens. The formal garden areas are wheelchair accessible and maintained by volunteers, the Friends of Government House Gardens Society. The grounds are open daily to the public from dawn to dusk, free of charge.

Did you know? In 2015, the 5,000 lightbulbs in Government House were replaced with LED lights, resulting in a 93% reduction in electricity usage.



1865 2015
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
BRITISH COLUMBIA'S VICE-REGAL RESIDENCE
150TH ANNIVERSARY

The Estate of the Lieutenant Governor celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2015. Since 1865, the Estate has been the site of three residences, housed three governors and 29 lieutenant governors. Each resident has influenced the evolution of the Estate towards its stature as ceremonial home of all British Columbians. The enduring vice-regal institution, which is above political partisanship, is the best guarantee of our stable, democratic system of government.

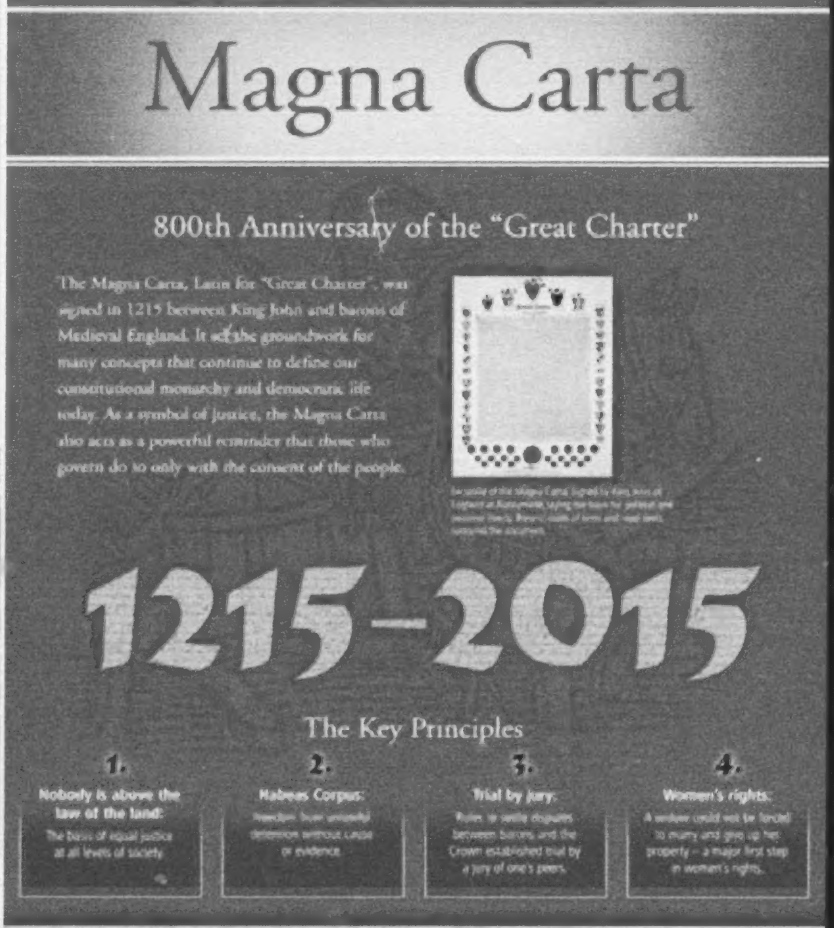
Above, Bottom Left and Bottom Right: On September 9, 2015, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II surpassed Queen Victoria as Britain's longest reigning monarch. To mark the occasion, Her Honour hosted a public garden party on the grounds. Large public events like this bring thousands of visitors to the grounds every year.

Over 5,000 visitors came on tours of Government House in 2015. Led by volunteers, the tours are an opportunity to learn the fascinating history of this National Historic Site and the important role of the Lieutenant Governor in our system of government.

In 2015, over 10,000 people attended free public events hosted by the Lieutenant Governor. These events included the annual New Year's Day Levée, a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Canadian flag, outdoor summer concerts, a garden party to celebrate Her Majesty's reign and Christmas carolling.

Events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Flag and the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta were put on in partnership with Canadian Heritage.

Below: Magna Carta – 800th Anniversary of the "Great Charter"
The Magna Carta, Latin for "Great Charter", was signed in 1215 between King John and barons of Medieval England. It set the groundwork for many concepts that continue to define our constitutional monarchy and democratic life today. As a symbol of justice, the Magna Carta also acts as a powerful reminder that those who govern do so only with the consent of the people. Her Honour hosted a reception at Government House in honour of the occasion.


Magna Carta
800th Anniversary of the "Great Charter"
The Magna Carta, Latin for "Great Charter", was signed in 1215 between King John and barons of Medieval England. It set the groundwork for many concepts that continue to define our constitutional monarchy and democratic life today. As a symbol of justice, the Magna Carta also acts as a powerful reminder that those who govern do so only with the consent of the people.
1215–2015
The Key Principles
1.
Nobody is above the law of the land:
The basis of equal justice at all levels of society.
2.
Habeas Corpus:
Freedom from unlawful detention without cause or evidence.
3.
Trial by jury:
Rules to settle disputes between barons and the Crown established trial by a jury of one's peers.
4.
Women's rights:
A widow could not be forced to marry and give up her property – a major first step in women's rights.

Left: A public celebration was held on February 15 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Flag. The Flag Day celebration began in front of Government House where the Lieutenant Governor inspected a guard of honour of local sea, army and air cadets. Following the inspection cadets raised the flag in front of Government House. Members of the public were then invited into Government House for entertainment featuring the Parkgate Singers, winners of the Lieutenant Governor's Sing Me a Song program in 2014; Métis artisans Lisa Shepherd and Ron Gerard and Francophone performers Kouskous.

THE CARY CASTLE MEWS

The Cary Castle Mews is a cluster of 19th century wooden service buildings located on the southeast side of the Government House estate. These onsite buildings have been used as support buildings to Government House since their construction in the 1870s. Thanks to the efforts of the Government House Foundation and other funding partners, many of the buildings have been rehabilitated and are now outfitted for the public to enjoy.

Volunteers, members of the Friends of Government House Gardens Society, welcome thousands of visitors every year to the Cary Castle Mews. Open Tuesday to Saturday from May to September, the Mews is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike.

WEBSITE:
www.ltgov.bc.ca/gardens/cary-mews/default.html

Above and Below: The Costume Museum expanded to include both the Carriage House and the former stables. A dedicated group of volunteers work year-round to curate the exhibit.

Above and Below: The Tea Room was officially dedicated as "Rudi's Tea Room", in honour of Victoria philanthropist Rudi Hoenson. Hoenson donated funds to the Government House Foundation, which allowed for a large expansion of the patio to accommodate more patrons and the purchase of a commercial dishwasher.

Above Left: Her Honour brought an orphaned lamb from her ranch in the Nicola Valley to live at Government House for the summer of 2015. He settled in well at his new home on the grounds and was soon a favourite of staff and visitors to the Cary Castle Mews. "Lamby" drew visitors of all backgrounds and helped urban children experience a taste of rural life. Many volunteers and staff volunteered their time to look after him.

Above Right: A new honours exhibit, highlighting the service of distinguished British Columbians and complementing the existing museum and heraldry display, opened at the Mews in 2015.

THE FRIENDS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS SOCIETY

The Friends of Government House Gardens Society was founded with the support of Lieutenant Governor David Lam in the early 1990s to rehabilitate the Government House gardens and grounds. What was originally a small, dedicated group of gardeners has grown to over 460 active volunteers, doing their part to support many facets of the estate. Approximately half of the volunteers work in the gardens, while the others dedicate their time in areas such as the Cary Castle Mews Tea House and Costume Museum, tours, flower design, photography, publications, archives, greeting cards and administration. In 2015, the Friends volunteered over 16,000 hours in support of Government House.

Funds are also raised through memberships and fundraising events, all of which is channelled directly back into garden maintenance and improvement.

WEBSITE: www.fghgs.ca

Did you know? The Friends grow organic vegetables in the gardens and sell them at the Cary Castle Mews. In 2015, the sale of vegetables made over $4,000 that went back into the gardens.

Above: Events at Government House always feature outstanding floral arrangements by volunteer flower designers, with some of the flowers grown on the grounds.

Above: At the Friends Christmas Lunch, Her Honour presented three long-time members with the Vice-Regal Commendation for their service to Government House and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. (L–R): Brian Rogers, President of the Friends; Commendation recipients for 2015 Carol Dancer, Nairn Hollott and Mary Cake; Her Honour.

THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE FOUNDATION

The Government House Foundation was created to foster the preservation of Government House and its grounds; to enhance its decor, character, maintenance, historical and cultural values; and to provide funding for the Lieutenant Governor's programs and awards that have a positive impact province-wide.

Vision

A respected and connected Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Government House, and its gardens and grounds that reflect their place in the history and lives of British Columbians.

Mission

To support the Office of the Lieutenant Governor by providing advice and resources for programs that benefit British Columbians and enhancements to Government House, its gardens and grounds.

Objectives

- Consult with the Lieutenant Governor on projects and programs to benefit British Columbians.
- Manage fundraising efforts for Government House projects and legacy programs.
- Seek opportunities to enhance awareness of the Lieutenant Governor's role.
- Foster the preservation of Government House, its gardens and grounds.
- Oversee Government House Foundation endowments and investment revenue.
- Assure that all aspects of Government House continue to be showcased and accessible.

For additional information on the Government House Foundation, visit them online.

WEBSITE: www.bcgovhousefoundation.ca
PHONE: 250-387-2080

Above: Her Honour with members of the Government House Foundation at their Annual General Meeting in March 2015.

Above and Below: The Government House Foundation Gala Ball, featuring the best of British Columbia food, wine and entertainment, is part of the Foundation's fundraising efforts, which support the Lieutenant Governor's programs and build the endowment fund.

In addition to Her Honour's priority programs the Foundation funds both the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Excellence in BC Wines and the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence.

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

MISSION

To support the Lieutenant Governor as Her Majesty's representative in B.C. and to serve British Columbians.

ROLE

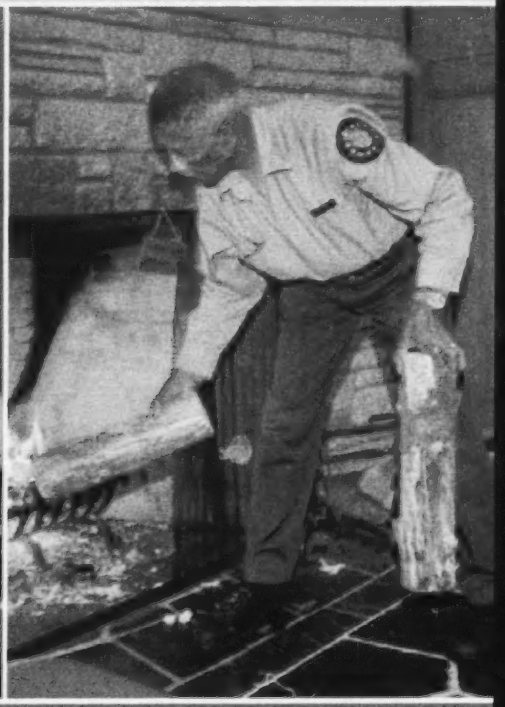
To assist and enable the Lieutenant Governor to fulfill all duties of Office and to maintain and enrich the traditions and heritage of Government House as the centre of official hospitality for the Province and the ceremonial home of all British Columbians.

Key Tasks

- Support the Lieutenant Governor in fulfilling her vice-regal, constitutional, celebratory and promotional responsibilities through the provision of correspondence services, scheduling, administration, travel, accountability, communications and infrastructure.
- Plan and implement the Lieutenant Governor's priority programs across the province.
- Assist British Columbians and visitors in understanding the Lieutenant Governor's roles and responsibilities by opening Government House and its grounds to the public and by supporting visitor programs.
- Manage and maintain Government House and its grounds as a National Historic Site.

Bottom Left: Government House and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor are supported by 13 full-time British Columbia Public Service Employees, along with contractors, on-call employees and hundreds of volunteers. A large number of on-call servers, stewards and chefs work at the hundreds of events hosted at Government House every year. They are an integral part of the team and ensure the hospitality offered to guests is second to none.

Bottom Right: Custodian Terry Singh has worked at Government House for over 40 years, originally as a member of BC Buildings Corporation and then a member of the BC Public Service.



Above: Honorary Aides-de-Camp (HADCs) work closely with members of Government House staff on all Her Honour's events. HADCs are members of uniformed services, acting on a volunteer basis, who mark the official status of The Queen's representative and accompany the Lieutenant Governor to all official engagements.

Above: HADC Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Sherwin was awarded the Vice-Regal Commendation in 2015 for his over 30 years of service to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

RESOURCES

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor is headed by a Private Secretary who serves as senior advisor to the Lieutenant Governor and who is accountable for the sound management of all aspects of the Office. Financial support includes federal, provincial and non-public funding.

Financial Summary

The Lieutenant Governor's salary is paid directly by the Federal Government and is taxed. The Federal Government also provides a grant of $97,000 which is used to fund events in support of federal programs, second language training, travel and hospitality.

The Lieutenant Governor does not receive a salary from the Provincial Government, which is responsible for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and Government House (102 rooms on 36 acres), the ceremonial home of all British Columbians and a centre of Provincial hospitality.

The Provincial budget for the Office in 2015/2016 was approximately $1,325,000 which was allocated as follows:

Salaries and Benefits	*$969,000*
Support and Services	*$151,000*
Operations	*$141,000*
Major Asset Maintenance	*$64,000*

The support of the Government House Foundation plays a key role in preserving and enhancing the House and grounds. In addition, the Foundation is taking on an increasingly important role in supporting the Lieutenant Governor's priority programs. All Government House Foundation funds are invested with the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation.

50

For More Information

For further information on the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and Government House, please contact us.

EMAIL: ghinfo@gov.bc.ca
PHONE: 250-387-2080

Related Links

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND GOVERNMENT HOUSE
www.ltgov.bc.ca

THE FRIENDS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS SOCIETY
www.fghgs.ca

VISIT THE HONOURABLE JUDITH GUICHON'S PAGE
www.facebook.com/LGJudithGuichon

VISIT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE PAGE
www.facebook.com/BCGovernmentHouse

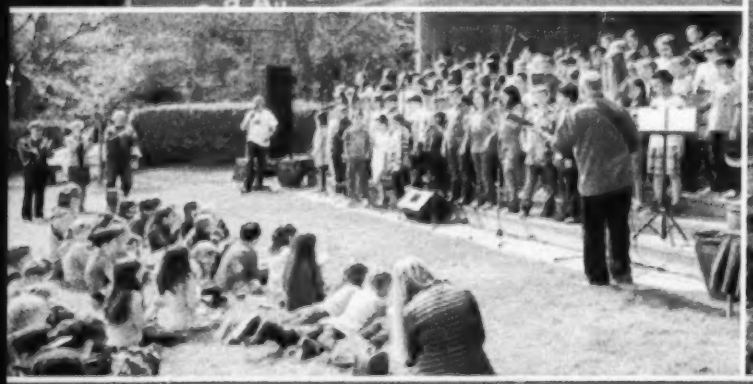
FOLLOW HER HONOUR ON TWITTER
@LGJudithGuichon

FOLLOW GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON TWITTER
@GovHouseBC

Images throughout are provided by: John Yanyshyn/Visions West; Rob Destrube/Destrube Photography; Don Craig/Government Communications and Public Engagement; James Kaarremaa; Rideau Hall; Department of Canadian Heritage; Department of National Defence; The Friends of Government House Gardens Society Photography Group; Andrew Snuggins, and Susan Sun.

BAY STREET ARMOURY

迎春賀歲慶會
CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL



Notes

Notes